

We claim:

1. A communications isolation system comprising:
 - a browser module that provides communications access to an unprotected network from a protected network;
 - a browser client module that communicates with the browser module; and
 - a browser isolator module that analyzes communications between the browser module and the browser client module, wherein the communication between the browser module and the browser client module are limited to those communications necessary for remote operation of the browser module.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a browser isolator module that is capable of preventing unauthorized communications between the browser module and the browser client module.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the browser isolator module screens at least one of the following types of information to determine if the communication is authorized: source and destination ports, user information, origination information, host information, destination information, character information, IP address information, display identification, session information, display class, display number, TCP information, and date and/or time information.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the browser module comprises a distributed network browser.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the protected network is isolated from unauthorized communications received from the unprotected network.
6. A communications isolation system comprising:
 - a browser running on a virtual machine within a protected network;
 - a border module that tunnels communications from an unprotected network to the browser via a communications tunnel, wherein

only authorized communications are allowed between the browser and the unprotected network.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising a tunnel restrictor module that limits communications from the border module to the virtual machine to those communications authorized for browser operability.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the virtual machine is isolated from the protected network.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein communications from the unprotected network are encapsulated and forwarded to the virtual machine.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein protected information on the protected network is prevented from reaching the unprotected network.

11. A method of communicating with an unprotected network comprising:
establishing communications between a browser and a browser client;
inspecting the communications between the browser and the browser client;
determining if the communications are authorized; and
allowing the authorized communications between the browser and the browser client.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the communication between the browser module and the browser client module are limited to those communications necessary for remote operation of the browser module.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising screening at least one of the following types of information to determine if the communications are authorized: source and destination ports, user information, origination information, host information, destination information, character information, IP address information, display identification, session information, display class, display number, TCP information, and date and/or time information.

14. A method of establishing a restricted communications tunnel comprising:
enabling a browser on a virtual machine that is isolated from a protected network;
establishing communications with a border module;
tunneling communications from the border module to the browser; and
preventing unauthorized communications from reaching the protected network.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising limiting communications from the border module to the virtual machine to those communications authorized for browser operability.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein communications from the unprotected network are encapsulated and forwarded to the virtual machine.
17. An information storage media comprising information for communicating with an unprotected network comprising:
information that establishes communications between a browser and a browser client;
information that inspects the communications between the browser and the browser client;
information that determines if the communications are authorized; and
information that allows the authorized communications between the browser and the browser client.
18. An information storage media comprising information for establishing a restricted communications tunnel comprising:
information that enables a browser on a virtual machine that is isolated from a protected network;
information that establishes communications with a border module;
information that tunnels communications from the border module to the browser; and
information that prevents unauthorized communications from reaching the protected network.

19. A communications isolation system comprising:

means for providing communications access to an unprotected network from a protected network;

means for communicating with a browser module; and

means for analyzing communications between the browser module and the a browser client module, wherein the communication between the browser module and the browser client module are limited to those communications necessary for remote operation of the browser module.

20. A communications isolation system comprising:

means for running a virtual machine within a protected network; and

means for tunnelling communications from an unprotected network to a browser running on the virtual machine via a communications tunnel, wherein

only authorized communications are allowed between the browser and the unprotected network.